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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Notes on Telecommunications

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1. Carrier

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The original carrier system in Bratislava was an 18 channel carrier. It was taken out and equipment sent to Prague. New carrier equipment for Bratislava was ordered. One part of the order had been delivered by October 1948 but there were some difficulties about delivery of the rest.

it apparently was destined for Bratislava, Nitra and Zvolen

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2. Teletype

Equipment is imported but Telegrafia was making experimental equipment. There is still Morse equipment used in minor stations.

3. Railway Telecom System

The railway telephone and teletype system connects all stations. All main stations and practically all smaller stations use automatic Siemens equipment. In no case are the PTA lines used, although the larger stations are connected to local PTA exchanges. [PTA - Post and Telegraph Administration]

4. Army Network

The Army has been using PTA lines, but operates its own local switchboards in Army headquarters offices. Equipment most likely Siemens type throughout.

5. Air Warning Network of the Air Force

Each Post Office has special equipment available to Signal personnel for reporting approaching aircraft. When the equipment is used, private call is grounded automatically. Main air warning center for Slovakia is in Bratislava, under one of the buildings of the City Hall which is about one hundred meters from the old Post Office, at the corner of Ursulinská and Klobuenická streets.

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6. Air Signaling Network of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery

This had a system of its own, similar to the air warning of the Air Forces.

7. State Police System

State Police has its own telephone, teletype and radio broadcast system. It uses PTA centrals, but it has its own lines from Post Office to all places where State Police units are stationed.

8. Radio

The 120 kw Bratislava broadcast transmitter is at Kostolany (between Trnava and Piestany), but it broadcasts using mostly 40 kw only. At Kortolany is also the 30 kw short-wave broadcast transmitter. There were two studios in Bratislava, one in the Tatra Bank Building on Stalinovo námestí, and one on the corner of Svoradova and Pilarikova Streets.

The broadcast system of the State Police uses about one kw transmitter in places with State Police posts, covering considerable territory. Posts have simple receivers.

9. Manufacture

The Kolin factory is making a great deal of equipment, its subsets are better than those made by Telegrafia in Pardubice. The Bratislava cable works now makes best cables. A great deal of its production goes to the USSR.

10. Power

All equipment is run on main current, stepped down from 22,000 Volts to 220 Volts, 50 Cycles. Three-phase supply is 380 watts.

The Bratislava radio station has a standby generator for transmitter in an underground shelter.

11. Underground Shelters, Bratislava

The shelter consists of a tunnel under the Bratislava Castle. It starts on the east side of the Castle leading to its center, where it branches. One branch leads direct to the Danube River, the other branch to the north side of the Castle. The tunnel is almost five hundred meters underground.

Another shelter is under the main railway station.

The three or four underground floors under the new Post Office offer possibility for use as shelters.

12. Storage

The main storage of telecom equipment for Slovakia is in Bratislava on the Tehelné Field just in front of the Tunggram Factory, in the direction toward the city. It keeps supplies for more than a year. All kinds of telephone, telegraph and radio equipment are stored there. In 1948 it had stored over five hundred drums of cable - three hundred to five hundred meters of cable each. The PTA has all its supplies in this location. The supplies are stored in a one-story, U-shape building, with one floor underground.

Each Post Office has its own depot containing supplies for at least one year. In addition, there are small depots in places where installations are being made.

13. Personnel and Training

Trained personnel was plentiful and efficient in 1948. Now perhaps some part has been replaced by poorly trained Communists.

Prague, Brno and Bratislava technical universities train engineers and research men. Highly trained telecom men are scarce, and electric power engineers are used in low current fields. The PTA has a school for its employees in Prague. The schooling takes three years.

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